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WOODSTOCK, THEN & NOW

WOODSTOCK,

WOODSTOCK, VERMONT, AS SEEN BY THE

WRITTEN BY RHODA TEAGLE, DESIGNED

THE WOODSTOCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THEN & NOW

CAMERA FROM 1854 UNTIL THE PRESENT.

BY FRANK LIEBERMAN AND PRINTED FOR

BY THE ELM TREE PRESS INC., IN 1957.

A NOTE ABOUT THIS BOOK: *the photograph reproduced on the opposite page was taken not later than July 4th, 1854 (for on that day the Court House, whose tower appears in the background, burned down), only six years after Niepce de St. Victor originated the glass-plate negative in France.*

Since the year this picture was taken the village of Woodstock has posed for hundreds of photographs. This is probably true of many other New England villages but in most cases these early pictures have long since disappeared. Not so the record of Woodstock, for thanks to the instinct of Mr. Bert Moore, former editor of the VERMONT STANDARD, *and Mr. Joseph Stone, photographer, both residents of the town for many years, a collection of more than three hundred old glass negatives has been preserved.*

These negatives are now owned by the Woodstock Historical Society, and while they were not available to the Chamber of Commerce at the time this book was being prepared, prints from them in the possession of Mrs. Norman Williams, Mr. Halleck Lefferts and Mr. Robert Woods were generously lent for reproduction.

We are greatly indebted also to the Billings Estate, Mrs. Herbert Daniels, The D.A.R. Historical Museum, Mrs. Byron Dexter, Mrs. Carrie Evans, Mr. George Goodrow, Miss Margaret L. Johnson, Mr. Arthur Wilder and Mr. Frederick Wood who kindly lent material for use in this book.

Many people who know or visit Woodstock will realize that there are many omissions in the photographic record: the D. A. R. house on the Green, for example. The reason for such omissions is simple. To date, the old pictures, although they may still exist, have not come to light.

The present-day photographs were taken by Messrs. George Biggs, Hanson Carroll, Robert Mertens and Kenneth Miner to all of whom an especial word of thanks is due for, if nothing else, their patience and forebearance in putting up with the help of the authors.

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The earliest known photograph of Woodstock. Taken before July 4th, 1854, when the court house (white tower in background) burned to the ground. The present White Cupboard Inn (opened as an inn in 1925) just shows at the right; the trees of the Green at the left. The Vermont Savings Bank now stands on the site of the white building at the left, the house of Major Isaac Churchill.

WOODSTOCK's first settler was a Harvard man: industrious, intellectual and suffering the pangs of unrequited love, Timothy Knox left Cambridge and took to the wilderness. Traveling up the Connecticut River, in due course he reached the Quechee Valley and made his way here, according to his own statement, in 1765. On what is now the road to South Woodstock, about a mile and a half from the Green, he built himself a hut and for the next three years was the township's only inhabitant, spending his time hunting, fishing and trapping.

The country at that time was completely wild. Every valley was filled and every hill was covered with a dense forest of maple and beech, oak and evergreen. There were swamps at the foot of Mt. Tom and along the Kedron Brook valley. There was water and game in plenty but the nearest settlements were at Hartford and Hartland, a full day's journey away.

From Hartland came Woodstock's next settler, James Sanderson. In the fall of 1768 he built a crude cabin on the hill at the eastern end of town and on the first of December that same year, pulling behind him all his worldly possessions on a hand sled, he moved in with his wife and six-weeks old child.

Although it took a man a year to clear an acre of land, other families moved here in increasing numbers. In 1771 a census showed that ten families, a total of forty-two people, formed the nucleus of the village on the banks of the Waterqueeche, its common name in Woodstock's early Land Records.

Among the forty-two was Timothy Knox, who by this time had left the wilderness, married, bought a farm and "settled down to poverty and a large family." He was reputed the best marksman hereabouts and even in his old age would be asked to come to the Green and display his skill with his long rifle.

Another noted pioneer was Abraham Powers, a man of an unusual turn of mind. On the decayed stump of a tree he planted a hill of

1865: the Churchill house, the Green and the present White Cupboard Inn.

corn so that he could boast to friends in Massachusetts that he had corn in Vermont growing ten feet high. He was reputedly the laziest man in the township, even going to such lengths, it was said, as to water his own maple sap to avoid going for more.

In Woodstock's first decade or two, architects were unheard of; each man was his own and his neighbors' carpenter, and many of their houses still stand. The first frame house on the Green was completed in 1772; the first building with glass windows in 1777. Once a family was settled in, neither comfortably nor completely, but adequately, with a roof nailed down against the biting storms, the head of the house joined with others to develop the community. A church had to be built, a preacher found and schools established, for Vermont was the first state to provide through its fundamental law a complete system of education, from the A B C's of the one-room schoolhouse to the B A's of its university.

The first public school became a landmark on the Green in 1812. It cost a total of $1210.79 and was paid for by the residents in cash, cattle or labor. Private schools, where education cost the boarder one dollar a week, were well attended, even when later the cost rose to a dollar and a quarter (with laundry) and subsequently to a dollar sixty-seven with the boarder providing his own firewood.

Early reading was confined to newspapers, sermons, controversial pamphlets and poetry of local origin for most of the incoming settlers brought few books, save perhaps a Bible. However, when Dr. Joseph Gallup opened his drugstore on the Green in 1800 he added to his stock of drugs and medicines "a handsome assortment" of miscellaneous books which he offered for sale at Boston retail prices. Five years later *The Northern Memento,* the first local newspaper appeared, but it was, perhaps ahead of its time for it was discontinued in 1806 and Woodstock was without its own newspaper

A bank has replaced the Churchill house, the buggies are gone, the streets paved, little else has changed.

until 1819 when the first issue of *The Woodstock Observer* appeared.

Meanwhile the desire for reading matter was on the increase and consequently the borrowing of books was a universal habit. The old newspapers carry many personal advertisements from distracted owners for the return of a loaned book, as well as numerous notices of book auctions.

In the early days stocks, the pillory and the public meeting post, doubling as whipping post, had supplied the necessary law and order, while the church was used for legislative meetings and taverns for political conferences until local and state systems of government could be established. The first Town Meeting was held in 1773 at the house of Joab Hoisington, innkeeper, at one o'clock in the afternoon on the third Tuesday in May. Moderator, Town Clerk, and all other necessary officers were elected, including four constables.

From this beginning Woodstock grew to the pleasant village around the Green as it has been called from earliest days. Originally the Green was triangular in shape, with a dirt track surrounding a stand of white pine. A disastrous fire burned these trees to the ground in 1774, after which it was left treeless until 1810. At that time Lombardy poplars were considered extremely handsome and were planted in abundance. Within a few years it became clear that they harbored worms so out they came.

It has often been said that the Green was made to reproduce the size and shape of the famous steamship "Great Eastern" or of Admiral Dewey's flagship. Such is not the case, for the Green was laid out as it is today by a village committee in 1830.

The trees of the Green were brought in from the hills and planted at this time. During the first early dry summer all the local boys were mobilized with buckets of water to keep the trees alive in the newly-turned soil. As a final gesture the iron fence was added at great cost in 1878.

The Raymond brothers put up this brick building in 1807 as a store. Later it became a saddler's shop, schoolhouse, residence and, in 1884, was opened as the Park Cottage Hotel. Since 1925 it has been part of the White Cupboard Inn.

WINTER TIME, with its invigorating dry cold, is an essential part of life in Woodstock although it poses its own problems of heating and snow shovelling. This last is so much a part of a Woodstock winter that recently, after a long thaw had taken all but a foot or so of snow, one of the town's older citizens was heard to say, uncomfortably, "What we need is to get three four feet of snow and get prop'ly dug out."

Snow on the streets was rolled flat to make smooth sleighing in the 1900's. At right, the Green, 1892.

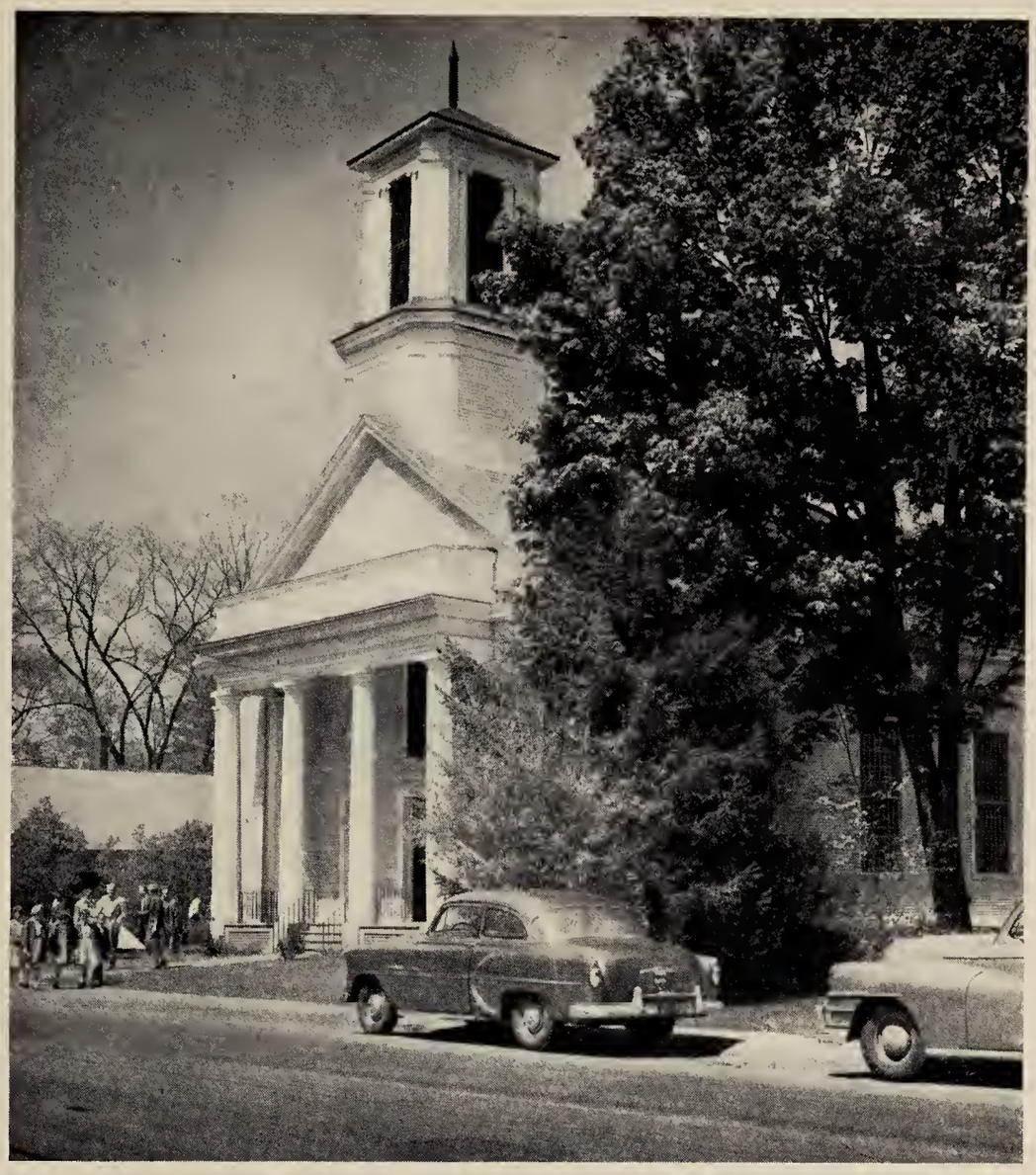
Between the Park Cottage and the present White Cupboard Inn (far rt.) Benjamin Mower built a brick house in 1825. Converted into offices in 1943 and known as the Professional Building, it is now part of the Inn property.

This was the home of Dr. Powers, at the western end of the Green, on an afternoon in the 1860's.

The Town Hall is a next-door neighbor; its movies attract the bicycle set.

It is generally accepted that the first Universalist Society in Woodstock was organized about the year 1786. At that time the doctrine of universal salvation had found great acceptance in the community. The Baptist Church was fast losing favor here and almost a third of the members of the Congregational Church had joined the Universalist ranks. For twenty years or so the Universalist Society prospered in Woodstock but by 1834 it had almost completely disbanded. In that year, however, a new organization, the North Universalist Chapel Society, was formed, and in the summer of 1835 the building of the present church was begun. It was dedicated on the 18th of November, that same year.

The ladies of the church very early organized a Ladies' Sewing Society. Since then much of the church's maintenance and restoration has been paid for by their industrious money-raising activities.



The Universalist Church, dedicated November 18th, 1835.

The Revere bell in the Universalist Church.

Of the hundreds of bells cast by Paul Revere and his sons only 87 remain; of these Woodstock is the proud possessor of four, the largest of which was installed in the Universalist Church tower in 1835. The first of Woodstock's Revere bells cost $319.95 and was hung in the Congregational Church in 1818. Then came the bell for St. James Episcopal Church in 1827 and that for the Christian Church in 1828.

Bells were an essential means of communication in the early village days, for each ring carried its own message. The "Gabriel" bell woke the parishioners, while the "Sermon" bell urged them to hurry to the church to hear the parson's fiery discourse. The "Pardon" bell rang before and after the service while prayers were being said for sins, real or imaginary. The most welcome ring was the "Pudding" bell which sounded notice to the cook to get dinner ready. Lastly the "Passing" bell tolled: three times for the death of a child, twice for a woman and once for a man, followed by one peal for each year of age.

The old covered bridge with the stone and brick buildings which now form the Recreation Center.

NOT MANY YEARS have passed since modern needs called for the replacement of the old covered bridge on Route 4 at the western village limit. Bridge building was always a difficult matter, due to the perils of spring and fall floods. The first bridge on this site cost $300 in 1791; considered an outrageous price at the time. Fifty years later a new bridge cost $3500.

The covered bridge linked Woodstock with the west, as the highway crossing for the mails and stage coaches. Mail-carrying was not too serious a problem for in 1798 only one letter

Built in 1846, the old bridge was a famous landmark and served the town for 98 years.

Woodstock's Little Theatre, part of the Recreation Center, was formerly a woolen mill.

was mailed from Rutland to Woodstock and Woodstock's total postage expenditure in that year was $21.67.

The Recreation Center building, given to the town in 1943 by Mrs. Edward D. Faulkner in memory of her husband, was built in 1866, some 70 years after the first mill was placed on the site. Originally a gin and malt distillery, the mill changed hands many times before it was finally used for wool-carding and cloth-dressing. Its power came from a large dam, vestiges of which may be seen at one side of the Center.

The Woodstock Community Recreation Center, converted from the brick factory seen on opposite page.

St. James Episcopal Church, at the western end of the Green, first opened for services Christmas Eve, 1827.

Two Sunday mornings: left, St. James Church, right, Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Snows.

THE ORIGINAL plans for the Episcopal Church of St. James Parish, drawn up in 1826, called for the "building of a Church 46 by 62 feet: The walls to be made of stone, 25 feet high . . ." The stone was drawn but for some reason it was decided to build the church of wood so the stones were used for the houses at the opposite end of the Green. The church was opened for Christmas services on December 24th, 1827. In 1907 the old wooden structure was taken down and the present building erected. Two decorative wooden panels were sent as a gift from the Church of St. Mary Magdalene at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England.

Gen. Lyman Mower, soldier and business man, built this beautiful house, photographed about 1865.

Perfectly preserved, the Mower house is famous as one of the finest examples of New England architecture.

One evening in 1903, following Confirmation services, fire destroyed the wooden Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Snows. Contributions for the building of a new Sanctuary were made by residents of all faiths and the cornerstone of the present Church was laid, with appropriate ceremony, the following year.

The fine brick house at the crossroads on the Green has remained unchanged since it was built in 1823. The people living in such houses were worldly and aware, their clothes were of the latest style and their houses as modern as any in the cities. This house boasted the first metal bathtub in town and it is there to this day.

On the site of the Woodstock Inn stood the Eagle Hotel, also known as Church's Hotel, shown here about 1860.

THE WOODSTOCK INN still displays above its entrance the original gilded eagle which was carved by one Moody Heath in 1830 as a sign that the Eagle Hotel, as it was then known, was open to all. Built on the site of the present Inn by Captain Israel Richardson in 1793, it was a two-story tavern, similar to many in New England, catering to travelers and coach drivers where, as one of Woodstock's tavern keepers put it, "the weary traveler may recline on the bed of down; where the hungry may gratify his appetite either with the common bounties of Providence or the luxuries of life; where the thirsty may allay his thirst with the cooling stream or a little wine for the stomach's sake; and where the low in spirits may find help by applying a little of the juice of the cane." A brick wing was added to the tavern in 1822 and here, three years later, General Lafayette was entertained at a banquet. A third and fourth story increased the accommodations in 1840 and 1867.

An 1830 woodcut of the Eagle Hotel.

In 1891 the buildings of the old Eagle Hotel were taken down and the present Woodstock Inn was built. Completed in 1892 it advertised its elevator two years later and its single private bath in 1897. In 1901 the Inn became the first of the local hostelries to be heated throughout. It has always been a center for conventions and organizational gatherings. Here were held the lavish balls, the summer dances and the many musicales; all in the best and most elegant style of New England hospitality. In winter sporting groups, bundled and befurred, were often seen on the long porch, starting out for sleighing, toboganning or snowshoeing and, less often, skiing. Skating on the Green was very popular and in the summer, as at present, charity bazaars and carnivals added color to this part of the town.

Horses and riders streamed in and out of the famous Inn stables on their way to rides in the rolling green hills. In more recent years the autumn trail rides have taxed the town's accommodations and filled the local stables and barns with fine horses from all over the country.

The Eagle Hotel changed hands many times. New owners added the fourth story in 1867.

The Woodstock Inn, completed in 1892, with the original 1830 eagle still in its accustomed place.

The Norman Williams house, photographed in 1865, with the Windsor County Courthouse on the right.

NEXT to the Inn stands the Windsor County Courthouse, once situated across the Green. The present building was completed in 1855, at a cost of $14,000. It also served as a community theatre. The broom closet just inside the entrance was once the ticket office. Its walls still bear the autographs of actors, singers and vaudeville artists of bygone days.

As a courthouse it was (and is) the legal center of the county. It was considered a most promising field for young lawyers 125 years ago, when the Windsor County Bar association was known to be the strongest in the state, having twenty-four men practicing during one session.

MRS. JOSIAH CLEVELAND, wife of a sea-captain seldom on shore, built a white frame house in 1798 on the spot where the Norman Williams Public Library now stands. Passing through various hands it was acquired by Norman Williams in 1818. He described it as being "pleasantly situated on the Green, but was not for

The Norman Williams Public Library houses a collection of Japanese arts as well as books.

Sylvester Edson built these houses in 1827 with stones originally intended for St. James Church.

some reason much sought for. The rooms were said to be too high, and the house a whimsical one; but it suited me exactly, and I was never more pleased with any purchase."

The Williams family took the old house down and built the present library in 1884, not quite seven years after a group of twenty-seven young ladies had joined together and by means of lawn parties and other entertainments, succeeded in raising money enough to form the first book club in the area.

Primarily residential, the stone houses were sometimes used commercially, as in photo above.

On the site of the first log hut in Woodstock Artemus Baker built this handsome white house. From 1827 until 1901 it was

WOODSTOCK as we now know it, began with a log hut, erected on the present site of the Vermont Savings Bank, by Joab Hoisington in the early spring of 1772. In June of that year he took out a license as tavern keeper, to accommodate the occasional traveler and to provide a place of meeting and amusement for the local citizens.

The log cabin remained there until 1793 when it was replaced by the elegant white frame building seen above. This house changed hands a number of times until in 1827 it came into the possession of Major Isaac Churchill, noted chiefly for his remarkable skill in playing the snare drum.

In 1824 he married Miss Julia Arnold, milliner. When the Major acquired his new house her shop was established there. Mrs. Churchill carried on her millinery business for some fifty years, journeying twice a year with her husband, usually to New York, to purchase goods and to bring back the latest fashions for the coming season. Their return from these trips was awaited with the utmost interest as Mrs. Churchill's taste and judgment were regarded as "supreme."

The Churchill house remained a Woodstock land mark until it was sold to the Ottauquechee Savings Bank and taken down in the spring of 1901. The present building was completed in July, 1902, and at the time was considered in banking circles to be "one of the best arranged and lighted banks in the country."

The elm trees in front of the bank were set out by Sylvester Edson at about the time he put up the handsome stone houses that adjoin the bank. These houses were built of the stones originally intended for the Episcopal Church.

ts owners, as the Churchill house. To the right, in this 1902 picture, are Sylvester Edson's stone houses.

The Vermont Savings Bank now occupies the site of the Churchill house.

Barker's Hatel, with the stagecoach for Windsor; about 1863.

"The Village Hotel, at the Sign of the Eagle" was built in the center of town in 1796. For years it was a noted stage coach stop and hostelry run by a famous stage driver, Robert Barker. When barely seventeen years old Barker drove the mail coach twice a week from Randolph through Royalton and Woodstock to Windsor and back, a journey of 80 miles, all in one day. This he did, winter and summer, for four years, "thinly clad and holding the reins with bare hands."

As a hotel-keeper Barker's motto was "Welcome the coming, speed the parting guest," and on this basis the hotel was run. As the town grew so did this inn, with additions down

Barker's Hotel and, left, the house begun in 1794 by Jacob Wilder, completed in 1798 by Titus Hutchinson. In 1925 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Royce and converted into the present White Cupboard Inn.

1867: the ruins of Barker's Hotel after the fire of March 23rd.

The main building of the White Cupboard Inn, left, and the so-called "Fruit Store" building, architecturally the last word in its day, erected on the site of Barker's Hotel. The Vermont Savings Bank at right.

Elm Street, 1859. The "Age Office" was that of "The Spirit ofthe Age," long a successful Woodstock newspaper.

both Elm and Central streets. Many businesses were situated in these buildings and in the Masonic Hall on the second floor of the Elm Street extension the Vermont legislature had met with the Governor in 1807.

A hideous fire broke out on the night of March 23rd, 1867, completely destroying the hotel and the stores in its extensions. A drug store, bank, silversmith, the local newspaper and many other businesses were considered a total loss. That was the week the newspaper consisted of one sheet, 4 x 6 inches; this issue is

In the 1890's: Len Pratt auctioneering in the square on a summer afternoon.

Elm Street photographed from the same spot on a sunny winter week-day, almost a century later.

still to be seen in the library. By April 4th every business had been relocated and construction had begun on what for years has been known as the "Fruit Store" building.

Today the corner continues to be the busy center of town. The bus stops here on its round trip from Rutland to White River Junction, the taxi stand is at the corner and in summer the lobster man sells his sea foods near the front steps. On fine days the high school band marches around the traffic dummy where once auctions were held and horses were hitched.

Friday noon and the Lobster Man is at his stand in front of the Fruit Store.

"Edson's Row" of brick buildings, photographed in 1857, three years before destruction by fire.

"Edson's Row," above, was begun in 1820 by the industrious Sylvester Edson. It ran from the Churchill house to the edge of Kedron Brook, then known as the South Branch. At the time the Row was completed in 1831 it was scarcely surpassed by anything in the state. The buildings were built of brick, with shingled roofs and were the principal places of business in the town until destroyed by fire on the morning of February 10th, 1860. Twenty-five of the town's business concerns suffered damage from fire or water and the loss was estimated at $30,000.

Central Street, 1865. Beyond the Churchill house, right, is the three-story "Phoenix Block" which replaced Edson's Row.

Delivery wagon of Carter Woolen Mills, Lebanon, N. H., taken before store, center, burned in 1881.

Businesses were resumed as soon as possible in every available space and a few months later the Phoenix Block literally rose from the ashes.

Despite the plague of fires an amazing number of stores and businesses were located in the central area of the town. Besides the usual grocery and clothing stores there were gunsmiths, cabinet-makers, jewelers, glovemakers, a piano factory, a manufacturer of flutes, bass viols, violins and hautboys, and, at the corner of Central and High Streets, Benjamin Metcalf manufactured one of the first power-driven

Central Street, some 90 years later. Gone is the horse and buggy and parking meters have replaced the hitching posts.

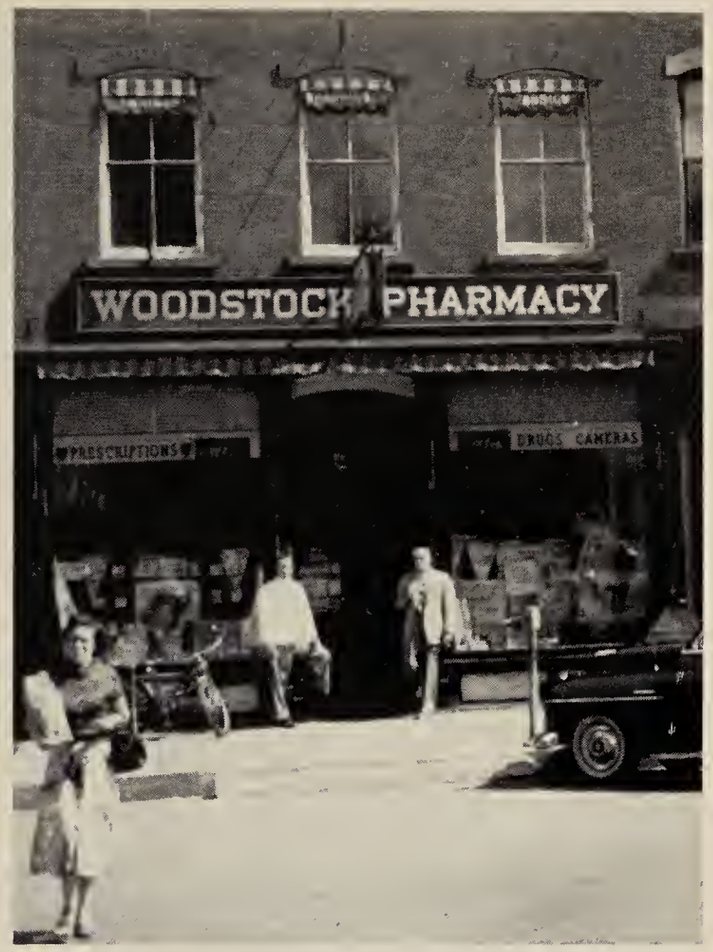
A board from the Fruit Store steps to Maynes & Ward's made a fine gossiping spot in 1908.

printing presses, a machine of his own invention.

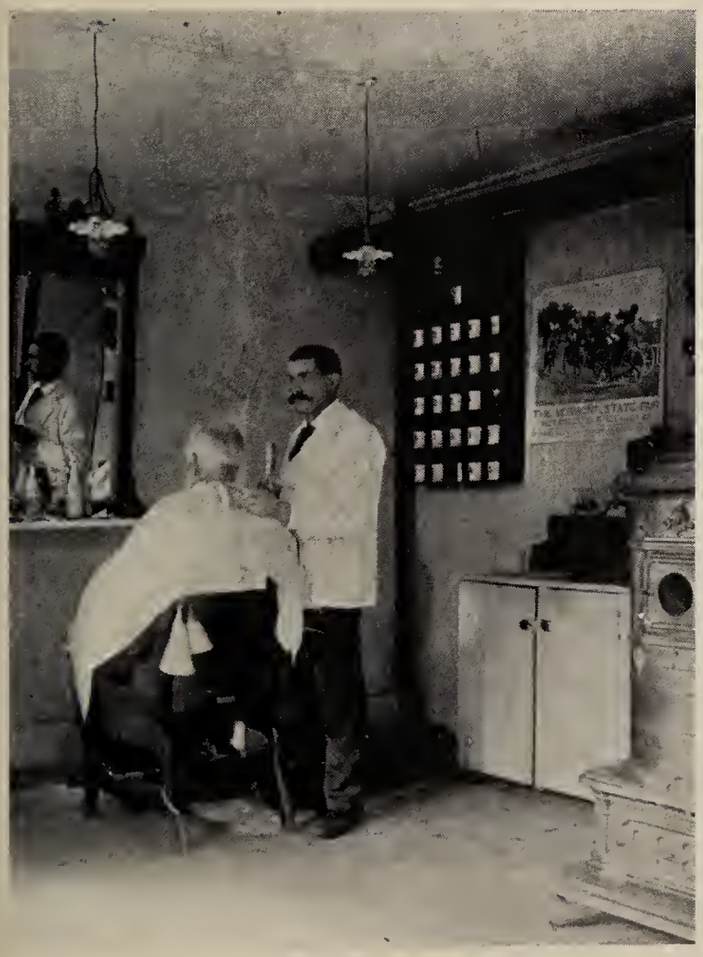
Down the Elm Street side of the Fruit Store was a handsome barber shop which, until as recently as 1955, boasted a fine pot-bellied stove on which the customers could prop their feet. Here, in the 1830's, Simeon Sankey, the town's best barber and greatest dandy, held forth as he snipped away with his long shears. Mr. Sankey was high-toned and was reputed the best dressed man in Woodstock, invariably wearing full-flowing ruffled shirt bosom with ruffled cuffs at his wrists. He was also fond of handsome conveyances and never drove one pair of horses if he could drive a team of four.

The Fruit Store steps serve the same purpose nowadays, if the sun is warm enough.

Ch's. Chapman—drugs, medicines and soda water.



Names change, but the merchandise is much the same.



Not much change in barbershops . . .

new stove, new chair, no mustache.

Unveiling the Civil War Memorial, May 31st, 1909, in Tribou Park at the end of Central Street.

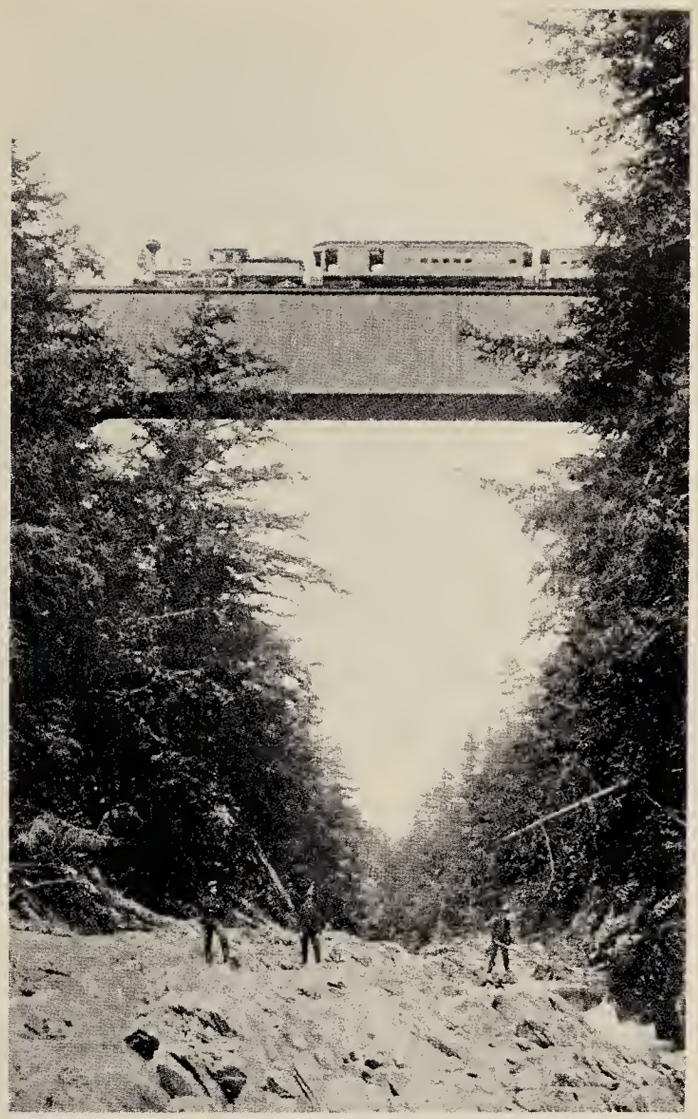
The Christian Church, built, 1827; renovated, 1876; acquired, 1949, by Woodstock Lodge No. 31, F. & A. M.

Tribou Park, (left) where Pleasant and Central streets meet, was the site of one of the first houses in town. A little shop, painted red, was built there too. Later it became a schoolhouse and then a wheelwright's shop. Eventually it deteriorated into an unsightly shanty, housing a Mrs. Canary, her blind husband and countless squawking fowl.

When Jonas Tribou bought the property in 1845 he moved the occupants elsewhere, enclosed the grounds in 1868 and planted a grove of pines. At his death the Park was permanently given over to patriotic festivities.

Farther down Pleasant Street was the terminus of the Woodstock Railroad which ran with an enviable safety record from September, 1875, until April, 1933. For fifty-eight years it had neither collision nor fatality, but then this was understandable for although there were six to eight trains a day to and from White River Junction there was never more than one train on the track at the same time.

The Woodstock Railroad's last run was also its most famous. Bedecked with flags, crowded with Woodstock's citizens, the train headed east on a cool pre-Easter day. Almost everyone in town was there to watch the tootling departure and off the train went, only to meet slithering defeat on Shallies Hill, east of Quechee Gorge. Several attempts were made on the long grade but the top of the hill and the clear run to White River Junction were not reached until several layers of heavy grease had been discovered and removed from the tracks.



The Woodstock Railroad crossing Quechee Gorge.

The Woodstock Inn coach at the railroad station in 1908, waiting for passengers from White River Junction.

Pleasant Street, running from Elm Street to the eastern end of the village, was opened in 1807. The house in this 1858 picture was for many years the property of Ransom Russell, known for making an excellent salt pork barrel.

Pleasant Street about 1870. Although mainly a residential area many shops and mills existed along Kedron Brook, taking power from it. Among them were saw mills, a carpentry shop and a pottery works.

Mr. Russell's house has changed but little in the course of the years. The young elm planted in front of his house grew to considerable size, as indicated by the stump on which the two little boys are standing. It was very recently removed.

One of the most interesting of these enterprises was a printing shop, established by Nahum Haskell, who printed a Bible, using the water-powered press invented and made here by Benjamin Metcalf.

The Congregational Church, known as "The White Meeting-house," built by Nathaniel Smith in 1806-07

In 1880 the Church was extensively remodelled; the Billings Chapel (left) was added at the same time.

STANDING at the head of Pleasant Street with Mt. Tom in the background is the Congregational Church, the first church built in Woodstock. Before its erection in 1807 services were held in a barn on the hill road to West Woodstock and then on the Green, by Aaron Hutchinson, who was hired in 1774 to preach for the towns of Pomfret, Hartford and Woodstock.

When the church was under construction the men were paid in money, potatoes or rum; a gallon to those who worked well, half that amount to the less energetic.

With the generous help of a few parishioners the church was remodelled and a chapel added in 1880. In 1950 the interior was again remodelled and when dedicated after this restoration five male members of the Hutchinson family took part in the service before a congregation many of whom were dressed in clothes almost a century old.

Lynn Fairbanks and family returning from church. Sunday Morning, June 1910.

Left, The brick house built in 1806 by Charles Marsh; right, about 1860, after remodelling and enlarging.

The "Billings Mansion," as it is generally termed, originated in a fine brick house built by Charles Marsh, a notable lawyer, in 1806. Its superb stone wall, built nine years later, still stands, as do many of the magnificent elms which were set out in 1808.

The house was twice altered after it was purchased for the large family of Frederick Billings, whose farm, stock, green-houses, gardens and mountain roads to the twin peaks of Mt. Tom were sights for all to see. Today, as in the past years, only pedestrians or equestrians may climb the mountain to see the Pogue, a dazzling little lake of uncharted depth.

Cattle-judging at the Windsor County Fair, an annual event in Woodstock from 1846 until 1932.

The Marsh house, purchased by Frederick Billings, as it appeared in 1887, after alterations.

THE WINDSOR COUNTY FAIR, the finest and most celebrated in old Vermont, was held every year on the Billings Meadow.

Races were a feature of the fair but breakneck riding and other daring feats of horsemanship were not permitted: easy, graceful and healthful riding was encouraged.

Long sheds housed the exhibits of crops, fancy work, farm equipment and manufactured goods. People from miles around brought their entries for the competitions and those who brought cattle, sheep or swine from a distance of over twelve miles were paid six cents for each mile of travel.

Fourth Annual Vermont Jersey Parish Show, Billings Farm, 1949; judging the class of two year old cows.

Three examples of Elm Street houses. The Converse house, top, was built by David Pierce in 1821 and occupied by him until sold to Julius Converse in 1856. Born in Connecticut, he was a noted and profound lawyer, who opened his office here when forty two years of age. In 1872 he was elected Governor of the State of Vermont.

The colonnaded brick house, center, was built by Henry Dana for the Misses Aylwin, whose father, a Boston Royalist, fled to Canada during the Revolution. While visiting friends in Woodstock the

The Elm Street houses, sheltered by their fine old trees, are still almost without exception, occupied by one family each. Built after the turn of the nineteenth century, designed by professional architects, they preserve for us many of the best features of New England architecture. Most of them were intended to house large families and often included the owners' offices, for many of the town's lawyers and doctors lived on Elm Street, as did some of the more prosperous merchants. While the men of the houses were concerned with their businesses or professions the ladies not only supervised their own households but were active in ministering

ladies decided to make it their home and this house was built for them in 1829. The pillars were made of the solid trunks of trees, horse drawn from Canada over the snow that winter.

The beautiful house at the bottom of the page dates from 1809 when it was built as the residence of Job Lyman, a graduate of Dartmouth, class of 1804, and a noted lawyer and banker. In 1850 the house was acquired by Andrew Tracy who brought it to its present appearance. One of the features of this house is its rear hedge of tall arbor vitae.

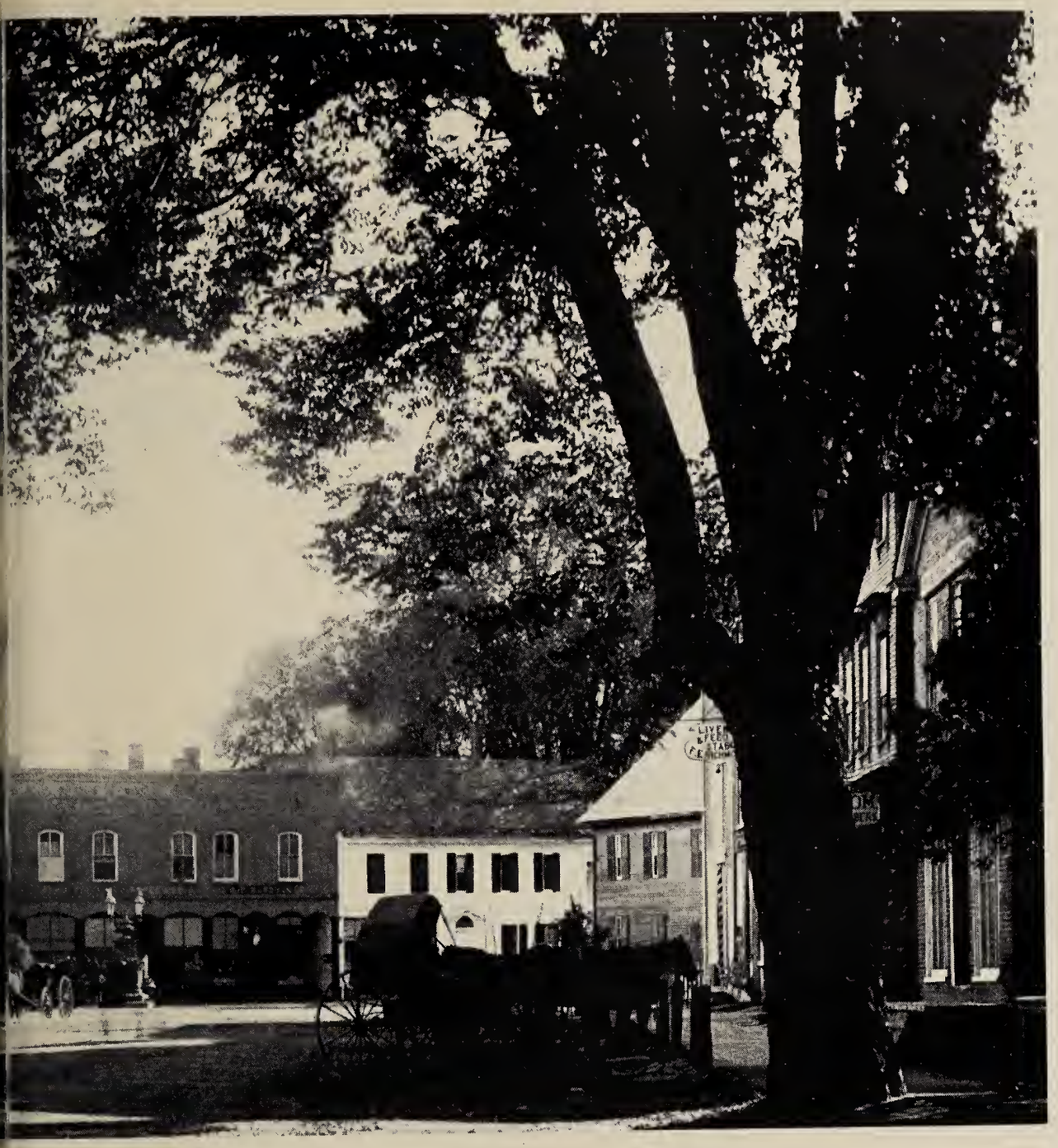
to the needs of the town's less fortunate inhabitants.

Picket fences ran the length of the street which was opened as a private enterprise by Charles Marsh and Jesse Williams in 1797. Most of the elm trees were set out about this time. Measurements of one near the Converse home and another near the Congregational church were kept for twenty years. In that time both grew over twelve feet in height and six feet in circumference. The largest, now gone, stood behind the Converse house, where a large open area, railed off for the storage of cattle on their way to market, descended to the Ottauquechee river.

THE LOWER END of Elm Street, from the church to the stores, suggests on oft-quoted expression of the 1850's, when it was said that "the Press, the Pulpit and the Petticoats were the three ruling powers of the day: the first spreading knowledge, the second morals and the third considerably."

Here the handsome houses joined the stores just as they do today, with the town's professional and social life separated by only a few lilac bushes. At this juncture, standing like two gate-posts on either side of the street are Woodstock's two printing offices, the Elm Tree Press on the west, the Vermont Standard on the eastern side. This local weekly newspaper, now over a hundred years old was originally called the *Vermont Temperance Standard.* Established in 1853, the paper changed hands in 1857 and the title was shortened to the *Vermont Standard.* Since 1805 and the publication of the short-lived *Northern Memento* some 18 newspapers have been printed and published in Woodstock but so far the *Standard* is the only one to have run the course.

Across the street and next to the Elm Tree Press is the Historical Society, whose house was built in 1807 by Charles Dana and occupied thereafter by three more generations of the family. The Society's fine library grows more complete each year: the treasured articles shown in the building's various rooms are constantly increasing in number and are a source of great interest to all students of Vermontiana. Among the exhibits are some fine pewter utensils, complete costumes of the past century, portraits, household goods and furniture and a Steele & Lawrence piano, manufactured in Woodstock over a hundred years ago.



The business section of Elm Street shows few changes in the past 75 years.

Characteristically, not one of these Vermonters is smiling as they fish in an Elm Street pond on a wet May day in 1889.

Center: bicycles were the rage in the 1890's. Here the Woodstock, Hartford and White River Junction cycle clubs are shown assembled for a joint holiday ride.

Below: the Woodstock Cornet Band, in dress blues, after winning a state-wide band contest held in Burlington. Picture taken about 1872.

Knights Templar parade in the square, May 30th, 1911.

The Woodstock Cornet Band was considered not to have a superior, if even an equal, in the state. For dress affairs the men were resplendent in scarlet coats with white trim, spotless white pantaloons and spats. The big drum, now in Montpelier, had such a heavy beat that it shook the windows around the town square. It was a great honor to handle the drum, but the most sought-after position was that of cymbal player, since that musician led the band in every parade.

Woodstock has always seemed to favor parades and bands. For many years the High School band has earned wide recognition for both its performance and its appearance in handsome dark green and white uniforms.

The Woodstock High School band stepping out in the spring of 1955.

Here come the horseless carriages! The Glidden Tour in Woodstock in 1908.

In 1908 the ninth annual Glidden Tour reached Woodstock. It was an endurance test for car, driver and passengers alike, even aided by a repair van and horse-drawn fuel tank wagon.

The Tour did not visit Woodstock again until 1954. Then on a glorious fall day over 200 cars, all built before 1913, steamed, roared and chugged into town, with both cars and village little changed except for coats of fresh paint. Thousands of spectators jammed the town while Glidden Tourists, many in costumes of the turn of the century, happily showed off their cherished antiques, parked around the Green like a necklace of Edwardian fancy.

Forty-six years later the horseless carriages roll again: September 20th, 1954.

Undeterred by snow four golfers in the early summer of '94 play Woodstock's first course, on Mt. Peg.

TRAVELING due south from the Woodstock Inn, along the old stage route, one comes to the Country Club, built originally as a small golfing and social club.

Recently the golf course, expanded and developed, has been the site of the State Men's and Women's championship matches. In winter it has also served as a practice ground for boys and girls taking their first ski lessons.

It can surely be said that few children in Woodstock have grown up without spending many pleasant hours pursuing some favorite sport either on the golf course or on adjoining Vail Field.

The present 18-hole golf course, with clubhouse and tennis courts in background, left.

Woodstock has been called one of the five most beautiful towns in America. It should also be said that its hills and valleys are among the loveliest in the state and never more so than in winter.

Winter sports have long been popular in this area as evidenced by this 1912 photograph of Arthur Wilder skiing in the best Scandinavian style, the derby excepted.

In the early thirties skiing really took hold. It was in the winter of 1934 that the first rope tow in the United States was rigged up on Gilbert's hill in Woodstock. It was able to carry quite a few skiers up the hill that first winter, but, as shown in these photographs, taken from a motion picture, it put a severe strain on the arms. Even so, people came

for miles to enjoy the luxury of skiing where all the uphill work was done by a rope and an old Model A Ford.

There is no tow on Gilbert's hill now, but the famous hill known as Suicide Six, and the adjoining gentler Gully Slopes are nearby. Originally equipped with a rope tow, Six now boasts a Poma ski lift (shown at right) which can take a thousand skiers an hour to the top of the hill. From there they can try their skill on the face of Six or run the trails on either side of the lift. So fast is the lift that determined skiers can get as much as 19,000 vertical feet of downhill skiing per day!

Suicide Six! Fast and tricky this huge open slope challenges the skill of even the most expert skiers.

Put up as a store in 1820 by Charles Dana . . .

In 1820 Charles Dana built the present Elm Tree Press building. It was known as the New York Dry Goods Store and carried a fine variety of household goods. From 1820 until 1906 it was run continuously by members of the family in the brick building on Elm Street. Under the guiding hand of Edward Dana it became the Elm Tree Press in 1907 and along with the usual jobbing work produced many unusually well-designed and finely printed magazines, pamphlets and books. Subsequent owners of the Press have endeavored to follow the same tradition.

The Elm Tree Press building also houses the Chamber of Commerce, whose latest directory shows Woodstock still to be a self-contained town of over one hundred and fifty businesses. Thus, throughout the years it has continued much as it began, though manufacturers no longer make up the majority of the town's business roster.

It used to be said that Woodstock's four staple products were, like those of the rest of the state, men, women, maple syrup and horses:

"The first are strong, the last are fleet
The second and third are exceedingly sweet,
And all are uncommonly hard to beat."

Life in Woodstock, as in this jingle, still moves at a pleasant pace.

this building became the Elm Tree Press in 1907.

HECKMAN
BINDERY INC.
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INDIANA 46962